

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 22, 23 and 25-27 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 5-21 and 24 are currently pending in the present application.

Claims 12-21 and 24 are currently withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims 13 and 15 have been amended by inserting “isolating” in front of “hepatitis.”

Claim 16, subsection (b) has been amended to indicate that the hepatitis C virus infected cell was obtained using the HCV particle produced by the cell of subsection (a).

Claims 17 and 18 have been amended by replacing “vaccine” with “immunogenic composition” and by deleting the phrase “or a part thereof.” Support for the amendment can be found on page 25, line 25 to page 26, line 7.

Claim 19 has been amended by replacing “using” with the phrase “integrating an RNA encoding a foreign gene into.” Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification on page 21, line 27 to page 22, line 10.

Claim 20 has been amended to depend from claim 19.

Claim 21 has been amended to indicate a final step of culturing the cell. Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification on page 22, lines 10-13.

No new matter has been added.

Summary of the Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting an Interview to discuss the claim rejections and for indicating that the amendments filed on July 1, 2009 appeared to overcome the outstanding rejections. Applicants have now submitted additional amendments directed at the

withdrawn method claims that incorporate the Examiner's suggestions. These amendments are believed to address the Examiner's concerns and should be found allowable.

Conclusion

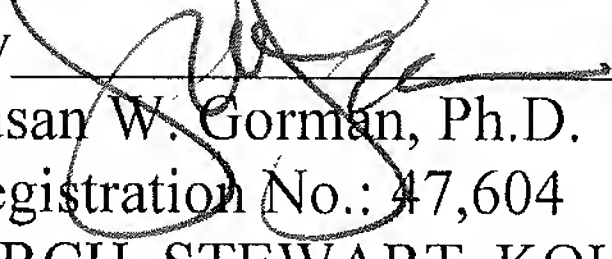
In view of the above remarks, all of the claims are submitted as defining non-obvious, patentable subject matter. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters within the present application that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Susan W. Gorman, Ph.D., Reg. No. 47,604, at the telephone number of the undersigned below to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 22, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Susan W. Gorman, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 47,604
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(858) 792-8855
Attorney for Applicants